

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 and 10-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 14 were amended to further define the present invention.

No new matter was entered. The new language in claims 1 and 14 is fully disclosed in the original specification. For example, the suppression of undershoot in independent claims 1 and 14 is discussed on page 15, lines 3-4 of the specification.

For at least the reasons set forth below, withdrawal of all outstanding objections and rejections is respectfully requested.

Examiner Interview

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Amrany for extending the courtesy of a telephone interview in respect to this application on April 26, 2007 with Applicants' representatives Alan Lindenbaum and Clark Jablon. During the interview, the contents of the Office Action mailed on January 4, 2007 were discussed. It was agreed that independent claims 1 and 14 would be amended to recite "wherein the time period is sufficient to prevent excessive undershoot." The Examiner stated that this proposed claim amendment appears to patentably distinguish over Ikeda. Applicants have slightly modified the proposed amended language to recite "wherein the time period is set to prevent or suppress undershoot." This language is supported by on page 15, lines 3-4 of the specification. Applicants believe that this change also patentably distinguishes the present application over Ikeda.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-8 and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,161,097 (Ikeda).

Claims 10 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,975,098 (Vinciarelli).

Claims 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,297,203 (Rose).

For the reasons set forth below, all of these rejections are respectfully traversed.

1. Patentability of independent claims 1 and 14 over Ikeda.

Claims 1 and 14 recite, in part, (underlining added for emphasis):

a bypass switch shorting between the input and output of said DC-DC converter; and

a bypass control section maintaining said bypass switch in the ON state during non-operation of said DC-DC converter, and at the start of said switching operation of said DC-DC converter, further maintaining said bypass switch in the ON state for a time period after the start of said switching operation,

wherein the time period is set to prevent or suppress undershoot.

In the Examiner interview, the Examiner agreed that defining the time period as a function of the state of the oscillator or the output voltage level of the converter, the claims would overcome Ikeda. Amended claims 1 and 14 each recite that the bypass control section maintains the bypass switch in the ON state for a time period after the start of the switching operation of the DC-DC converter, wherein the time period is set to prevent or suppress undershoot. Accordingly, claims 1 and 14 are believed to be patentable over the applied reference.

2. Patentability of the dependent claims

The dependent claims are believed to be patentable over the applied references for at least the reason that they are dependent upon allowable base claims and because they recite additional patentable elements and steps. None of the secondary references make up for (disclose or suggest) the deficiencies of the Ikeda patent as discussed above.

Conclusion

Insofar as the Examiner's rejections were fully addressed, the present application including claims 1-8 and 10-18 is in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowability of all pending claims is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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